GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1468
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Observations of Supreme Court on Air Pollution
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed serious concerns over air pollution in the country and imposed pollution compensatory fees on commercial vehicles;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) whether the Supreme Court has taken cognizance of the patients of asthma and other respiratory diseases and asked the Government to take action immediately to check the pollution in the country;
(d) if so, whether the Supreme Court has directed Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) to submit a report after examining the activities of 962 Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres which are checking hazardous air pollution; and
(e) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)& (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has expressed concern over air pollution in the country from time to time. In the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985 in the matter of M.C. Mehta versus Union of India & Others regarding issue of air pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR), it has directed imposition of Environmental Compensation Charge (ECC) from November 1, 2015 on commercial vehicles entering Delhi at the rate of Rs 700/- and Rs 1300/- for light and heavy duty vehicles, respectively. This was subsequently doubled vide Order dated 16th December, 2015. Government has taken necessary steps to implement the directions.

(c) Hon'ble Supreme Court has taken cognizance of adverse impact of air pollution on human health and has passed directions relating to mitigation of air pollution.

(d) & (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its orders dated January 17, 2017 and February 6, 2017 in the afore-said matter directed the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority to inspect Pollution Under Control (PUC) Centres located in the NCT of Delhi and also those in the districts of the NCR. The court has directed EPCA to submit the status report by mid-March, 2017. In compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, EPCA has submitted a report of assessment of PUC Programme in Delhi and NCR on April 24, 2017. In addition, Delhi Government has inspected 949 Pollution Checking Centres (PCC) out of 970 and 178 PCCs have been issued memo regarding discrepancies and deficiencies. Transport department of NCT of Delhi has suspended 14 PCCs and 5 PCCs have been cancelled.
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